



YSGOL GYNRADD A MEITHRIN STRYD SIORS GEORGE STREET PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

Wainfelin Road, Pontypool, Torfaen NP4 6BX

Friday 08 October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

This week has proceeded at a hurtling pace – perhaps it is following hot on the heels of Mrs Ralph's triumph at the weekend – and we are rushing towards the last fortnight of this half term. The last five weeks have been such a busy period and so crucial in creating the necessary positive atmosphere in which children can feel comfortable to learn and look forward excitedly to their day in school. Our children's enjoyment of their time here is very clear and it is always rewarding to see and to share in their enthusiasm. We are lucky to work in a role where looking forward is always a happy thing to do.



LONDON MARATHON SUCCESS

Huge congratulations to Mrs Ralph who completed the London Marathon last Sunday in support of Nerve Tumours UK. Despite having run 26.2 miles on the Sunday, Mrs Ralph was straight back to school this Monday sporting a well-deserved marathon medal but vowing never to do it again (though that has been said before!).

Most importantly, the tremendous support shown for Mrs Ralph's personal superhuman efforts have yielded a wonderful £2,163.75 for Nerve Tumours UK. Well over the £2,000 target set. A massive thank you to everyone who contributed to this fundraising – it is so important for the charity who will ensure that the funds raised are very well used.

COVID CASE RATE INCREASE

You may already be aware that the community level of risk for the Aneurin Bevan University Health Board (ABUHB) region has this week increased from 'low' to 'moderate'. This is because of the continuing high levels of infection and the sustained pressure on the Test, Trace and Protect service locally.

As a school, this will not require significant changes in our operation as we already have in place appropriate practical measure to reduce risk. However, high rates of infection (which are most prevalent among young people) do present a concern, particularly for adults working in school despite being double-jabbed.

Our staff have experienced significant challenge already this term as a result of infection. Not only has this meant time away from school for staff with COVID-19, on occasion staff have also struggled to return to their usual duties straight away because of the severity of their illness. This inevitably impacts on our ability to operate 'as normal'.

Please help us to minimise risk and impact by:

- making sure that children with symptoms do not attend school
- arranging a PCR test for your child when any other household member has symptoms or tests positive
- keeping us in the loop by sharing information about illness and testing with our office team

Your support is vital in helping us to keep everyone in school safe and healthy. Thank you.

PUNCTUALITY

I am pleased to say that our morning arrivals generally work very smoothly; most children arrive on time and move to classes and settle quickly. This helps enormously to get the day off to a positive start for individual children and for classes as a whole.

A small number of children arrive late to school. This makes a difficult start to their day as they miss out on the usual meet and greet and arrive in class when other pupils and adults are already busy with learning activities.

Please try to make sure that your child arrives between 8.50 and 9.00 so that they can begin the day easily. Gates remain open until 9.05 for parents & carers who are bringing children to different entrances.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

The way people access hospital services in our health area has changed with the opening of The Grange University Hospital. Unfortunately, many parents and members of the wider public are presenting at the wrong hospital for their or their child's condition.

ABUHB have asked if we could advise all families that: the Minor Injury Units at the Royal Gwent Hospital, Nevill Hall Hospital, Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr and Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan can treat a wide range of injuries in children over 1 years old (If your child is under 1, they must go to The Grange University Hospital). However, our Minor Injury Units cannot treat illnesses or emergencies.

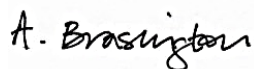
If it is a life-threatening emergency or your child is seriously unwell, please call 999 or go straight to The Grange University Hospital. If you are unsure, please call 111 for help and advice.

Find out more information about ABUHB Children's services you can read the latest Spotlight On newsletter at: <https://abuhb.nhs.wales/files/clinical-futures/spotlight-on/childrens-healthcare/spotlight-on-round-up-childrens-healthcare-services/>

CASHLESS PAYMENTS

Further letters for unregistered families have been distributed this week. Please use the information provided to register for the cashless system so that you are able to make payments for upcoming trips, including our Panto visit next month and the planned Year 6 residential. Without signing in to the cashless system parents/carers will be unable to pay for pupils' participation in these activities.

Kind regards,



Mr A Brasington